



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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WACO JURY CONVICTS KILLEEN MAN ON FEDERAL GUN CHARGES

(Waco, Texas) **United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that CAMERON COMBS, 24, of Killeen, was found guilty of being unlawfully in possession of a firearm as a convicted felon.

On March 5, 2002, defendant was stopped about 8 miles south of Killeen, Texas on Hwy 195 for a missing front license plate. The trooper smelled a strong odor of marijuana. After running an outstanding warrants check on the defendant, the trooper arrested the defendant for driving with suspended license. A loaded Star 9mm, model Firestar Plus semi-automatic pistol was also found in the back seat.

A trial was held yesterday in Waco before Judge Walter S. Smith, Jr. The jury deliberated for less than 30 minutes before finding the defendant, CAMERON COMBS, guilty. Sentencing is expected to be in April and he faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in federal prison.

This case was investigated by the Texas Department of Public Safety, Trooper Kirk Washington and Constable Chris Bush of the Bell County Constable's Office-Precinct 4. Assistant United States Attorneys Doug Gardner and Doug O'Connell prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government. The successful prosecution of this case is another example of how the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas is implementing the Department of Justice's new gun crime initiative - Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN).

Modeled after the success of Project Exile, Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide federal initiative designed to reduce gun violence in our communities. PSN promotes partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to target violent criminals who use guns and insures that when an armed criminal is arrested, that individual will face swift criminal prosecution and be exiled from the community through the use of stiff mandatory prison sentences. This commitment to reduce gun crime includes federal funding this year of over \$200 million, which is used to hire new federal and state prosecutors, support investigators, provide training, and develop and promote community outreach efforts.

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